

Message Text

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USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NPG, NATO
SUBJECT: NPG - JULY 26 STAFF GROUP MEETING

REF: (A) USNATO 06872 (DTG 152138Z JUL 77)(NOTAL),
(B) USNATO 06950 (DTG 191502Z JUL 77)(NOTAL), (C) USNATO
06536 (DTG 071339Z JUL 77)(NOTAL), (D) USNATO 07175
(DTG 251636Z JUL 77)(NOTAL), (E) SECSTATE 169739
(DTG 202236Z JUL 77)(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AT THE JULY 26 MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP (SG)
SUPPORT SG CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTION TO RECIRCULATE AT A
LATER DATE A CONSIDERABLY SHORTENED VERSION OF THE NPG
WORKING PAPER ON NEW TECHNOLOGY FOLLOW-ON WORK. SG
CHAIRMAN REQUESTED LATEST ESTIMATE FOR CIRCULATION OF
US OUTLINE ON THE TNF LONG-TERM DEFENSE INITIATIVE.
PENDING RECEIPT OF MILITARY COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON THE
MARITIME NUCLEAR STUDY, IS DRAFT PERMREP REPORT WILL
RECOMMEND NO SPECIFIC FOLLOW-ON WORK. DANISH REP SAID
HE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT HIS AUTHORITIES FORMALLY SUGGEST
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THAT THE SPRING 78 NPG MINISTERIAL BE HELD DURING THE
WEEK OF APRIL 17 AND NOTED THAT EXACT LOCATION IN DENMARK
HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 2
BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW TECHNOLOGY FOLLOW-ON WORK. DURING CONSIDERATION
OF NPG (STAFF GROUP)WP(77)7 ON NEW TECHNOLOGY FOLLOW-ON

WORK (REFS A AND B) CANADIAN REP (MAC NAB) STATED THAT, IN LIGHT OF THE LTDP INITIATIVES, HIS AUTHORITIES AGREE THAT THE PREFERRED OPTION IS TO STAND BACK FOR THE MOMENT WHILE LTDP INITIATIVES PROCEED, BUT THAT PRESENT PAPER COULD COME TO THAT CONCLUSION WITH FAR FEWER WORDS. UK REP (LEGGE) REPEATED HIS AUTHORITIES' PREFERENCE FOR KEEPING THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP (TSG) IN BEING AND CONVENING A MEETING ON NEW TECHNOLOGY FOLLOW-ON WORK IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR TERM (REF C, PARA 9), BUT SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A DELAY IN PURSUING THE FOLLOW-ON WORK. HIS AUTHORITIES ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE PRESENT PAPER IS TOO LONG, AND QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR A PAPER AT ALL, AT LEAST UNTIL CLOSER TO THE FALL MINISTERIAL MEETING. NETHERLANDS REP (WYNAENDTS) AGREED THAT THE PAPER WAS TOO LONG, BUT FELT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A SHORTER VERSION. ITALIAN REP (SCHENA) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES AGREED WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF PRESENT PAPER, AND FORESAW NO DIFFICULTY WITH A SHORTENED VERSION. THE FRG REP (ANDING) RELAYED HIS AUTHORITIES' AGREEMENT WITH THE CONTENT OF THE REPORT. ALTHOUGH A SHORTER VERSION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, FRG REP STRESSED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED SUCH A PAPER WAS NECESSARY TO HELP ESTABLISH A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE NPG ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW TECHNOLOGY FIELD.

2. SG CHAIRMAN NOTED APPARENT CONSENSUS THAT THE PRESENT NEW TECHNOLOGY FOLLOW-ON PAPER WAS TOO LONG AND THAT THERE

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WAS NO IMMEDIATE NEED FOR SUCH AN EFFORT. HE SAID THAT THE IS WOULD CIRCULATE A SHORTER PAPER AT SOME UNSPECIFIED FUTURE DATE. THE UK REP SUGGESTED THAT THE IS MIGHT BETTER FOCUS ON AN OPTIMUM DATE FOR CIRCULATING THE AB-BREVIATED VERSION IF IT HAD MORE PRECISE INFORMATION ON WHEN THE US INTENDED TO PROVIDE ITS TNF OUTLINE TO ALLIES AS WELL AS WHEN OTHER LTDP TASK ORGANIZATIONS EXPECTED SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS. SG CHAIRMAN AGREED TO CONTACT THE CHAIRMEN OF LTDP TASK ORGANIZATIONS AND ASKED THE US REP (MACDONALD) TO QUERY WASHINGTON REGARDING LATEST ESTIMATE FOR CIRCULATING OF TNF OUTLINE. ACTION REQUESTED: PRIOR TO NEXT SG MEETING ON AUGUST 1, REQUEST LATEST WASHINGTON ESTIMATE FOR CIRCULATION OF US OUTLINE FOR TNF LONG-TERM INITIATIVE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY NETHERLANDS REP REGARDING THE SURVEY OF PAST AND ONGOING NEW TECHNOLOGY STUDY WORK IN NATO (REF A, PARAS 11 AND 12), SG CHAIRMAN AGREED THAT THIS WAS AN OPEN REQUIREMENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) AND INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF (IMS). HOWEVER, GIVEN THAT PURSUIT OF SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY DUPLICATIVE OF WORK ASSOCIATED WITH THE LTDP

INITIATIVES, SG CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON A SUITABLE APPROACH. FRG REP RESPONDED THAT PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THE LTDP INITIATIVES, THE SURVEY WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER FOR THE NPG TO MAINTAIN ITS INFLUENCE IN AREAS OF LEGITIMATE CONCERN.

4. NIKE HERCULES P.O. (REF D). SG CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED THAT DRAFT P.O. WAS IN WORK AND PROCEEDING AT A DELIBERATE PACE TOWARD COMPLETION AND CIRCULATION.

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5. MARITIME STUDY (NPG/N(77)4)(POUCHED TO STATE AND DEFENSE). IMS REP ANNOUNCED THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WOULD REPORT OUT THE MARITIME STUDY SHORTLY. SG CHAIRMAN COMMENTED THAT THE IS DRAFT PERMREP REPORT WOULD TAKE THE POSITION THAT, GIVEN THE FINDINGS OF THE STUDY AND THE CONVENTIONAL MARITIME LTDP INITIATIVE, NO FURTHER MARITIME WORK APPEARED NECESSARY FOR NOW. SHOULD THIS CONCLUSION NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALLIES, CHAIRMAN SAID THAT THE STAFF GROUP SHOULD CONSIDER ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK IN DETAIL BEFORE RECOMMENDING ANY OTHER COURSE. COMMENT: WE WILL FORWARD SEPTEL OUR COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR MARITIME FOLLOW-ON WORK. END COMMENT.

6. SPRING 1978 NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING. DANISH REP (JENSEN) NOTED IN REFERENCE TO HIS INFORMAL REQUEST (REF E) THAT HE HAD RECEIVED TWO RESPONSES, BOTH SUGGESTING

THE WEEK OF APRIL 17. ITALIAN REP STATED ROME'S PREFERENCE
FOR A DATE EARLY IN THE 15 APRIL - 15 MAY TIME FRAME AS
WELL. FRG REP EMPHASIZED DESIRE FOR EARLY DATE TO ENSURE
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MAXIMUM SEPARATION BETWEEN NPG, NAC AND SUMMIT. UK REP
SUGGESTED THAT THE DANES RECOMMEND A SPECIFIC DATE SOON
TO FACILITATE FORMAL ACCEPTANCE IN CAPITALS. DANISH REP
AGREED AND ADDED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD NOT YET DECIDED
ON THE EXACT LOCATION IN DENMARK FOR THE MEETING.
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